

The Handmaid's Tale: The Graphic Novel
Margaret Atwood, adapted by Renée Nault.
Doubleday / Nan A. Talese Books, 2019

Reviews

- [School Library Journal](#) (May, 2019): “A worthy adaptation of a legendary and award-winning novel. [...] Nault’s illustrations are haunting and delicately ethereal. It’s almost guilt inducing to be so captivated by the beauty of her art, so effectively does it depict the horror of Offred’s experiences. At times following the narrative word for word and other times expanding the plot to portray deeper themes of fear, determined resistance, and the complicity of the public, each frame melds with the text until neither can exist without the other. [...] A must-read.”
- [The Seattle Review of Books](#) (Apr. 4, 2019): “[L]et’s be clear: this is great comics. [...] It’s been a long time since I’ve seen this skilled an adaptation into comics form. [...] What Nault has done here is stunning: she has taken a story that has verged on overexposure in recent years, and she has breathed fire into it.”
- [New York Post](#) (Mar. 25, 2019): “[A]rresting watercolor illustrations... able to convey some things that text — and even a TV show — never could.”
- [Publishers Weekly](#) (Feb. 8, 2019): “Equal parts gorgeous and horrifying, Nault’s adaptation faithfully follows both the plot and style of Atwood’s 1985 dystopian novel. [...] [S]killfully done and likely to appeal to younger readers; the tale’s relevance and Nault’s talent are undeniable.”
- [Toronto Star](#) (Mar. 21, 2019): “[A] rich, visceral approach to telling the story.”

Awards

- None found

Lists

- None found

Response to Challenges

- Author Margaret Atwood, on the banning of *The Handmaid's Tale* in Leander (TX) schools: “I had thought America was against totalitarianisms. If so, surely it is important for young people to be able to recognize the signs of them. One of those signs is book-banning. Need I say more?” ([Katie Couric Media](#))

- In an open letter to the Leander (TX) school board after Citizens Curriculum Advisory Committee removed more than 20 titles from student book club reading lists, authors represented on the list said: “We believe in the capacity of these and all books to expand the reader’s frame of reference—challenging them to confront new ideas and allowing them to explore other perspectives.” *The Handmaid’s Tale: The Graphic Novel* was one of the books removed, alongside *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* and *Speak: The Graphic Novel*. ([Marshall Libraries](#))
- Gabrielle Chloe Reilly, in an opinion piece for *The George-Anne Inkwell*: “This book teaches us that even if it goes against the norm and the rest of society, we must fight for what’s right. [...] Reading this book was life-changing. Although scary, it taught me all the lessons about standing your ground.” ([The George-Anne Inkwell](#))
- Emily O’Neal, co-chair of the Oregon Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee, on why retaining Atwood’s original novel does not make up for removing the graphic adaptation: “Graphic novels are known to be a special and important learning tool for...those that are having reading difficulties... If you think of folks that are reading-delayed or dyslexic, having that graphic novel version helps them gain context and better understand what it is that they’re reading. So, we actually do have some concern about equity in the removing of the graphic novel version of this title.” ([Daily Beast](#)) ([Jefferson Public Radio](#))

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